



Lacombe County Traffic Safety Plan 2023-2026

Zero fatalities and major injuries in Lacombe County



Executive Summary

The Lacombe County Traffic Safety Plan was introduced as part of the Community Peace Officer Program to encompass a strategic outlook to traffic safety. This Plan provides guidance to Lacombe County Peace Officers in implementing a coordinated enforcement effort toward achieving a reduction in the number of collisions, deaths, and injuries in our Community. Overall, since the implementation of Traffic Safety Plans in the province, the number of collisions, deaths and injuries on Alberta's roads have declined considerably.



To build upon this Traffic Safety continuum we are introducing Vision Zero for the (2023-2026) Traffic Safety Plan. Priorities are addressed using several core strategies including education and communication and new technologies in relation to traffic calming. Local enforcement initiatives include working together with our law enforcement partners throughout the year to implement the Provincial Traffic Safety Calendar.



What is Vision Zero?

Vision Zero is a vision for a future free of deaths and serious injuries on our roads in Lacombe County.

The Vision Zero is a new approach to road safety thinking. It can be summarized in one sentence: **No loss of life is acceptable.** The Vision Zero approach has proven highly successful in Sweden. It is based on the simple fact that we are human and make mistakes. But when those mistakes happen on our roads we come off second best because our bodies are not designed to absorb high impact speeds. They never have been and never will be. The road system needs to keep us moving. But it must also be designed to protect us at every turn.

That is why we need to ensure we have a safe road system in place. A system that protects us from our own mistakes and those of others. A system that will change road safety for good.

Vision Zero Principles:

- No loss of life is acceptable
- Traffic fatalities and serious injuries are preventable
- We all make mistakes
- We are physically vulnerable when involved in motor vehicle collisions
- Eliminating fatalities and serious injuries is a shared responsibility between road users and those who design and maintain our roadways

Vision Zero Framework



VISION: Lacombe County, with the commitment of all partners, aims to eliminate all fatalities and serious injuries on the roads to create a safe and healthy Community.

How will we achieve Vision Zero?

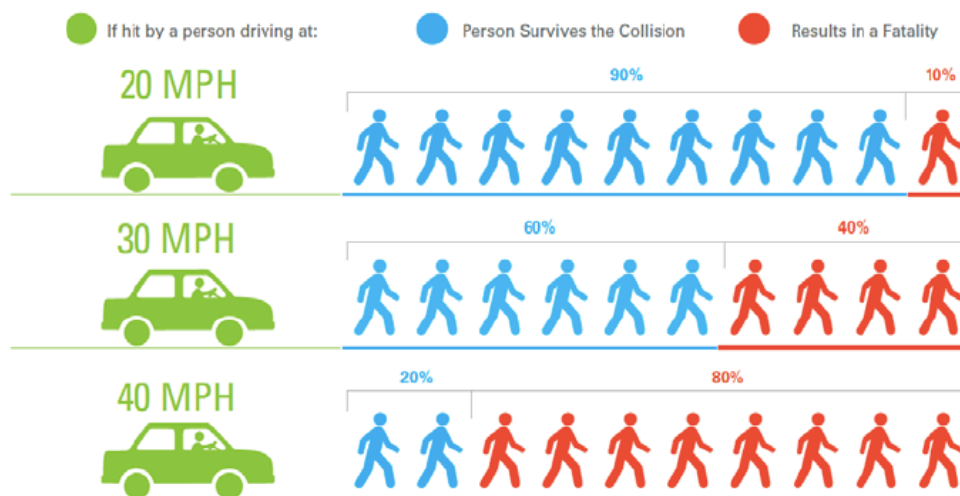
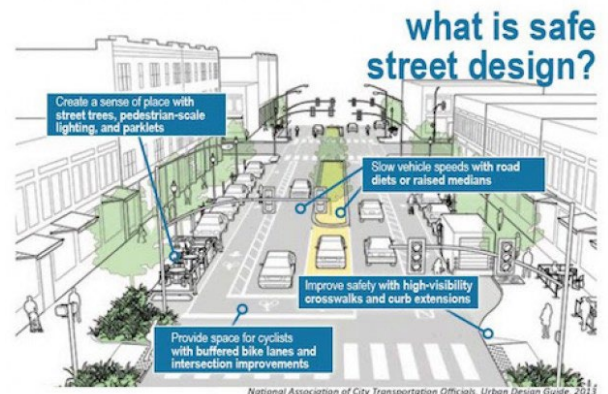
Vision Zero is a long-term strategy. Making changes to infrastructure and traffic-safety culture takes time. However, we will get there through a Safe System Approach. The Safe System Approach is a holistic framework that allows us to assess, guide and improve traffic safety by considering the interaction of all aspects of the transportation system. We will save lives and eliminate serious injuries through the application of a Safe System, evidence-based approach, and the five E's of traffic safety:

Engineering ★ Education ★ Enforcement ★ Engagement ★ Evaluation

Vision Zero	Traditional thinking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on fatalities and serious injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on overall collision rates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Flaws in the transportation system identified as cause of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Human error identified as cause of collisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on perfecting road system for imperfect human behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on perfecting human behavior on an imperfect road system
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Safety initiatives reduce societal costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Safety initiatives are costly

Engineering:

The fundamental key in the Safe Systems Approach is the design and operation of road systems in Lacombe County that prevents collisions from occurring or reduces the severity while minimizing the possible role of human error in precipitating crashes. Safe speeds through speed limits and speed management is critical to the Safe Systems Approach. This strategy will implement the use of temporary digital speed-feedback equipment, which has proven its effectiveness in other jurisdictions.



Source: Vision Zero Two-Year Action Strategy



It is important to look at the relationship between the five E's of traffic safety, in particular the areas of Engineering and Education. 'Engineering' measures often result initially in large collision savings, this reduction in collisions may decrease with time as road users become accustomed to a particular measure. The opposite is the case for 'Education' as the number of persons exposed will form a small proportion of the total of road users and the immediate impact in terms of collision reduction will be relatively small. In time, it is hoped that consistent road safety education and encouragement will achieve significant behavioural

changes, which can be expected to lead to a reduction in the number of collisions and casualties.

Enforcement:

Driver behavior continues to be identified as a leading contributor to motor-vehicle collisions that result in fatalities, injuries and property damage collisions. Road safety utilizes law enforcement to change behaviours of road users when engineering and education do not achieve the desired results. Law enforcement efforts will be coordinated in line with the Provincial Traffic Safety Calendar.

Enforcement will be conducted to change behaviours associated with follow-too-closely, distracted driving, speed, intersection safety and will include seeking greater punishment of high-risk drivers for traffic-related offences.

An integrative and collaborative effort will focus on maximizing limited enforcement resources through engaging local law enforcement partners. This initiative will allow Lacombe County to maximize efficiencies related to traffic safety and avoid duplication of services. This coordinated approach will foster greater compliance with traffic safety laws and improve service deliveries to highway users.

The use of traffic calming devices such as digital traffic speed boards will continue to be utilized to increase the safety on Lacombe County roadways and bridges education and enforcement of traffic-related legislation. This strategy will continue to build on the work done by uniformed Community Peace Officers to increase safety in school zones, intersections, and augment road safety at high-risk or high-collision locations. Furthermore, the use of stealth vehicles may be utilized to target these high-risk driving behaviours and high-risk areas.

Engagement and Communication:

Public involvement initiatives will increasingly include discussions around road safety. The incorporation of road safety into public consultation on transportation-related projects will enhance community engagement. Furthermore, enhanced community engagement will increase understanding and improve Lacombe County's traffic-safety culture.

International, national, provincial, regional and local road-safety government agencies advocate for the use and support of the Safe Systems Approach. Lacombe County, through this strategy will work closer with the Transportation Association of Canada and our surrounding communities to increase development, implementation and evaluation of Safe Systems engineering. The increased use of the Safe Systems Approach in engineering will contribute to our long-term goal of Vision Zero.

Evaluation:

The demand for greater efficiency and effectiveness in road-safety resource use and management requires the use of an evidence-based principle and rigorous evaluation. Further research is needed in the use of digital speed sign boards for collision reduction.

Increasing the efficient and effective use of Police resources and Community Peace Officers (CPO) for road safety is required. CPO Services along with its partners will rigorously evaluate the use of limited resources, develop, implement, and evaluate road safety Law-enforcement initiatives, and identify and target crime and traffic-related enforcement opportunities, which will then ensure best practices. Through a systems approach, the integrative and collaborative efforts of our organization will contribute to the efficient and effective use of County resources; create safer roads and safer drivers.

Road Safety Implementation:

The adoption of Vision Zero makes Lacombe County one of the first municipalities in Alberta to take on a long-term goal of zero fatalities and major injuries from motor-vehicle collisions. To implement this strategy, an operational budget will be developed and submitted through the budget process for approval by County Council. Effort will be deployed to seek additional funding available from the Alberta Traffic Safety Fund and others via grant applications.

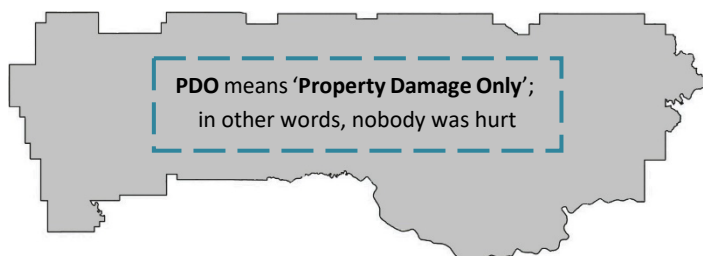
Lacombe County

2016-2020

Collision Facts

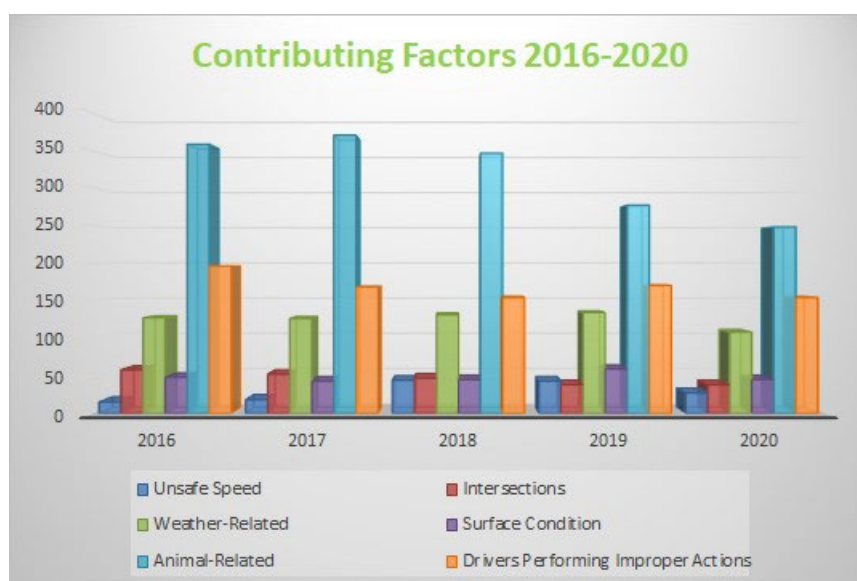
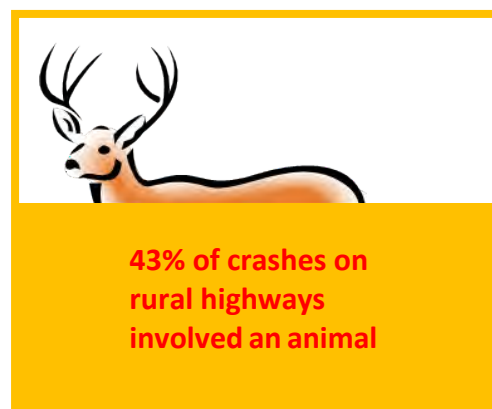
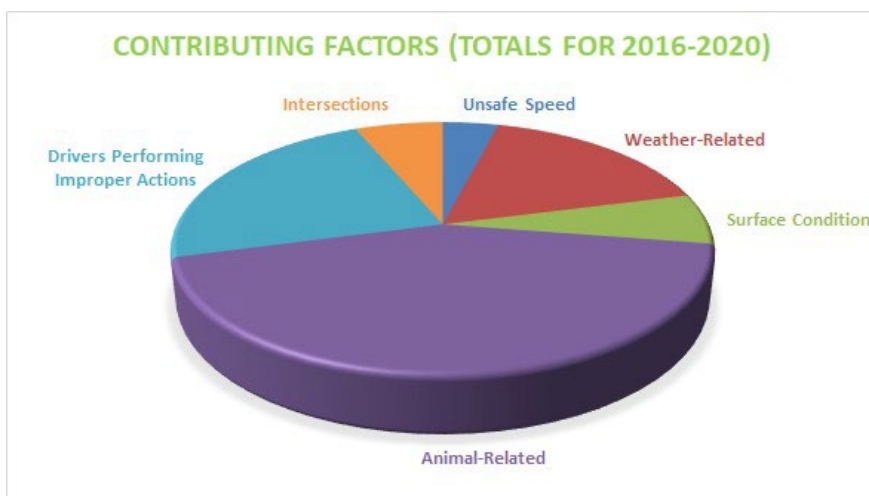
■ 16 people killed ■ 282 people injured ■ 2,900 collisions ■

Total Number of Collisions	
Fatal	16
Injury	282
PDO	2,602
Total	2,900



Total Number of Casualties	
Fatalities	16
Injuries	282
Total	298

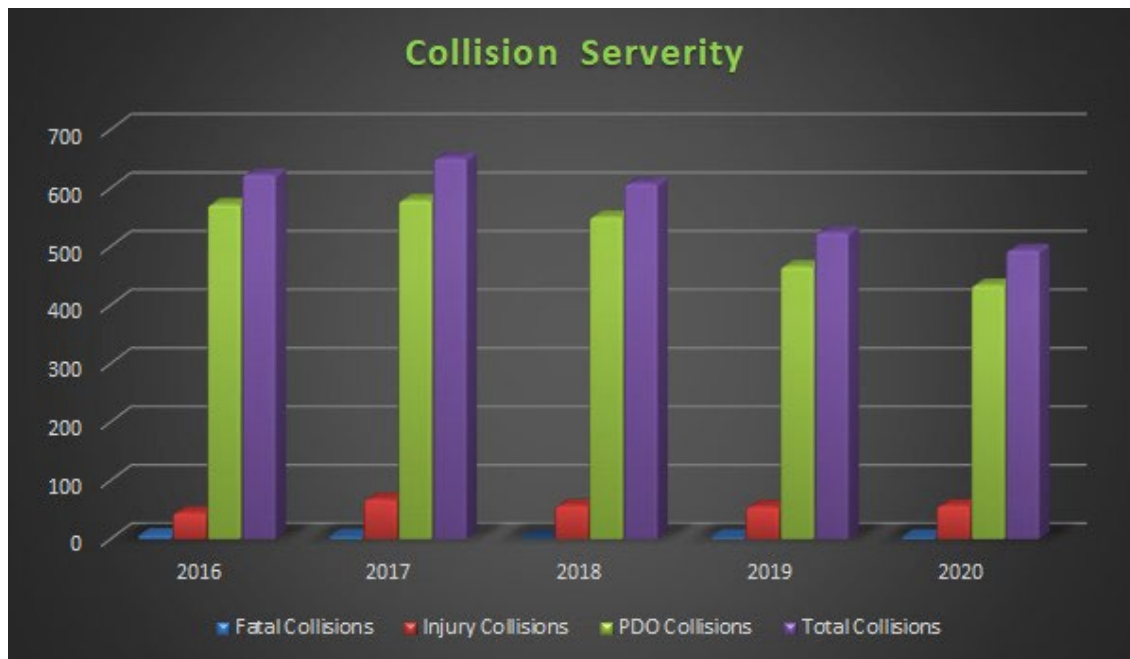
■ 44% of total collisions involved at least one driver who committed a driving error



Lacombe County

2016-2020

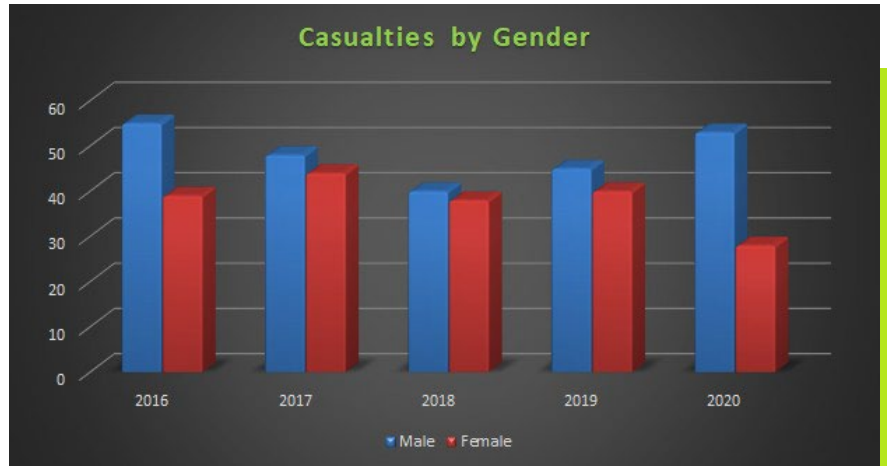
Rates



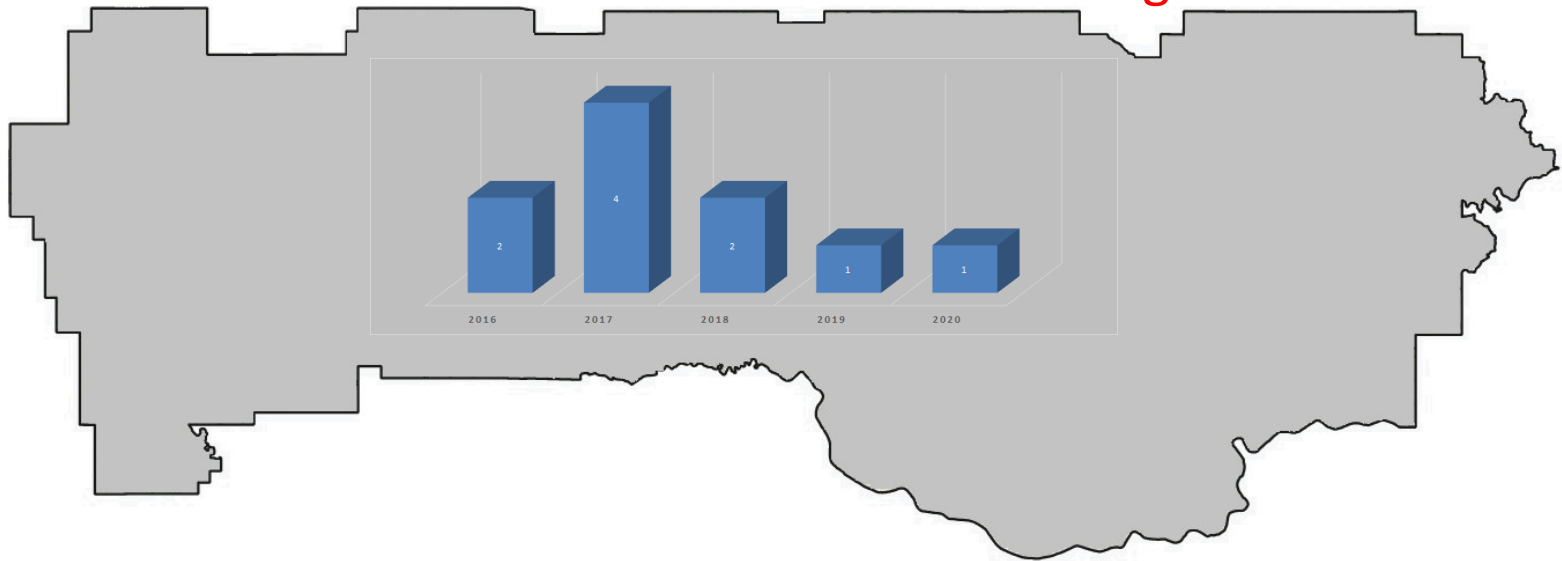
Lacombe County

2016-2020

Drivers



Driver's who did not wear a seatbelt during a collision



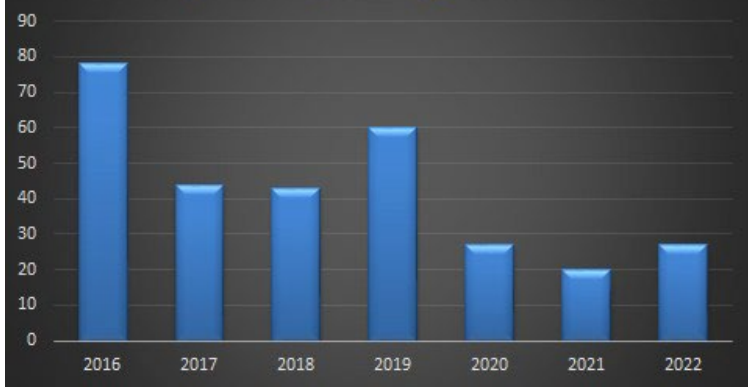
Lacombe County

2016-2022

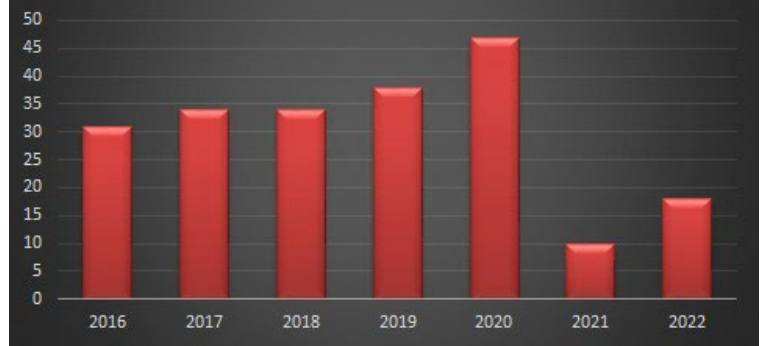
Areas of Concern

Lacombe County, CPO Services have identified four main areas of concern due to high volume of traffic on single lane highways. Enforcement in these areas is predominantly speed related. Below are graphs showing speed enforcement in the areas of concern. Approximately 83% of the Community Peace Officer role is dedicated to traffic enforcement.

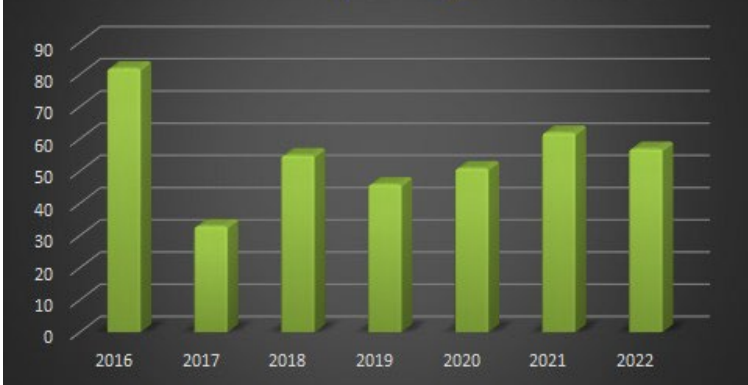
Aspelund Speeding Violations



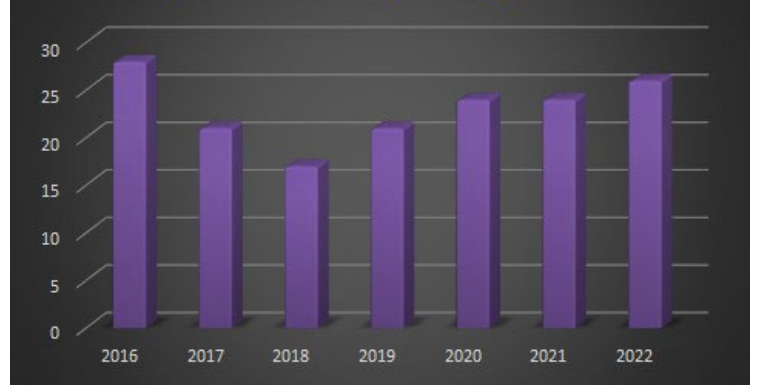
Woodynook Road Speeding Violations



Milton Road Speeding Violations



Rainy Creek Road Speeding Violation



Lacombe County

2016-2022 Service Agreements



Regarding speed related offences, the graphs show speeding offences throughout Municipalities served under Service Agreements with Lacombe County.

Radar Speed Signs

